Ryan Padraig Kelly

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Ryan Padraig Kelly, my first vivid recollection of life was making the long slow walk from my grandmother Brigid Kelly’s food store on the edge of McCrory Street in Armagh City to my first day at Saint Patrick’s Primary School in Armagh City!!!!!!!! Initially I hated the place and could be found literally in tears at both break time and lunch time indoors!!!!!! Gradually my love of the place began to develop in tandem with my burgeoning love of the beautiful game of football which I perfected in the school yard at both break time and lunch time!!!!!!!! Playing basketball in the school gymnasium!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Friends including Mark Mulgrave, John Paul Donnelly, Paul O’Callaghan, Ronan Shields, Lorcan Vallelly, Patrick Russell, Edmund Toal, Joseph Marley and many more besides including Gemma Reid, Noel Duffy and Francesca Rice!!!!!!!! Being taught by Mrs Pickering and Mrs Cullen in my early years and by Mr Patsy Nugent in my latter years!!!!!!!! Obtaining a grade “B” in my VRT test which enabled me to study at Saint Patrick’s Grammar School in Armagh City!!!!!!! Winning the long distance race on school sports day on one of my last days at Saint Patrick’s Primary School

coming back from behind in the field to defeat Thomas Smith!!!!!!!!! School trips to places such as the Argory and Ardress House and Belfast Zoo!!!!!!!!! Perfecting the beautiful game of football in the cul-de-sac where I grew up in Armagh City, Alexander Gardens!!!!!!!!! Bernard Geraghty and Sylvia Geraghty next door and their son David Geraghty!!!!!!!!!!!! Phil and Peter Quinn and their son and daughter Edel and Ronan Quinn!!!!!!!!! Josie and Charlie Guy and their sons and daughters, Cathy, Shona, Brian, Austin and Charles Guy!!!!!!! The other Guy family including Eimear and Michelle Guy!!!!!!!! The McGuigan family including Ryan, Kyle and Mary McGuigan!!!!!!!!! The Grimley family including Matthew Grimley!!!!!!!!!!! The Cullen family including Mairead, Rory, Margaret and Ronnie Cullen who committed suicide due to family breakdown!!!!!!!!!! The other Kelly family including Brian, Monica, Martin, Paul, Rachel, Adam, Mary and Philip Kelly!!!!! The other family next door, the McKay family including Valerie and Gene McKay and their sons Stephen and Conor McKay!!!!!!!! Mrs Magill!!!!!!!!! The Moore Family and the Crumley family including Richard, David and Donna Crumley!!!!!!! The McCarthy family including John and Layla McCarthy and their son and daughter Damian and Bronagh

McCarthy!!!!!!!!! The Houlihan family including Paddy, Margot, Patricia and Oliver Houlihan!!!!!!! The Mackle family including Pearl and Donal Mackle and their son Neil and daughters Caoimhe and Helen Mackle!!!!!!!! The McParland family including Gus and Sue McParland and their daughter Siobhan McParland!!!!!!! The Moore family, the O'Kane family and the Darragh family including Stephen, Aoife and Gerard Darragh!!!!!!!!!! Studying at Saint Patrick's Grammar School in Armagh City!!!!!!!!!!! Being taught art by Mrs Mohan, science by Mr Jennings, mathematics by John Hitler Marley, mathematics by Brother Ennis in my latter years!!!!!!!!, Irish by Mrs White. Playing basketball in the school gymnasium, GAA in the College Fields, soccer in the school yard at both break time and lunch time!!!!!!!! School trips to places such as Killowen and the Argory!!!!!!!!! Watching a play by Brian Friel, "Philadelphia Here I Come" at the Lyric Theatre in Belfast!!!!!!!!! Mass at Saint Malachy's Church in Armagh City and the Armagh Roman Catholic Cathedral!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Playing football in Sherry's Field growing up!!!!!!!!! On a team run by Mr McKee who later confided in me that his son had developed a drug addiction!!!!!!!!!!!!! Playing for Orchard Youth, a cross-community soccer team in Armagh City

growing up, playing at Milford Playing Fields. One game sticks out in my mind, a game against Portadown Boys Club at Milford Playing Fields, a team that routinely beat us and winning by seven or eight goals!!!!!!!!!! Coming off the field with severe concussion, the effects which have lasted to this day!!!!!! Playing for the Armagh Harps at underage level, winning the Armagh under twelve county championship final at Granemore, against Keady containing a team including John Toal and Paul McCormack who were on the Armagh all-Ireland winning football team in 2002!!!!!!!!! One game sticks out in my mind, a game against Middletown in Middletown when local vigilante Martin Slevin stepped up to take the winning score, missing, dying of embarrassment, scaling the local fence and running away whilst the management team of Mr Agnew and Mr Morris suitably retrieved Martin Slevin!!!!!!!!! Football trips to England to Manchester and Liverpool, travelling by bus and ferry to Larne and travelling to Stranraer and Cairnryan!!!!!!! Travelling down through Scotland to be based in Manchester and Liverpool!!!!!!! Playing against teams in the local Manchester and Liverpool area!!!!!!!!!!!! Watching Manchester United play Manchester City at Old Trafford in 1991 when Ryan Giggs

scored a goal to win the game!!!!!!!!! Standing behind the goal!!!!!!!!! Watching Arsenal play Everton at Goodison Park a number of years later!!!!!!!! The match ending in a goalless draw!!!!!!!!!! Meeting Paddy Crerand and players such as Paul Ince!!!!!!!!! Watching the Armagh GAA team down through the years!!!!!!!!!! Watching all sports down through the years!!!!!!!!!!! Tottenham versus Manchester United at White Hart Lane in 1989!!!!!!!!!!! On the television!!!!!!!! Watching Manchester United throughout their successful period in the 1990s and noughties, culminating in watching Manchester United defeat Chelsea at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow, Russia in the year of 2008 with my father Niall Eugene Kelly!!!!!!!! Watching the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland!!!!!!!!! Studying at the Queen’s University of Belfast, staying with my cousin Philip Kelly at Mount Charles just off the university campus!!!!!!!! Taking four years to complete a three year degree as a result of mental health issues!!!!!!!!!! Travelling by bus and by car in my second and third years!!!!!!!!! Watching Manchester United play in Europe in their treble winning season of 1998/9 at the group stage against Brondby, Bayern Munich and Barcelona at the Globe at the top of Mount Charles in

Belfast!!!!!!! Studying at the Seamus Heaney Library and the tall storeyed library!!!!!!!!!! Walking in Botanic Gardens!!!!!!!! Going to the cinema just off Mount Charles!!!!!!!!!! Working in Sean Graham's Bookmakers in Armagh City growing up!!!!!!!!!! Working in the Northern Bank, firstly in the Northern Bank's anti-money laundering unit in Belfast which coincided with the biggest bank robbery in the history of the UK and Ireland in the noughties!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Working with the manager Laura McAllister and her staff including Pauline Fyffe, Elizabeth McAreavy, Rebecca Dinsmore, Joy Taylor, John Cullen, Christopher Roberts and the postman "Bumper". Working in a street behind Belfast City Hall, Adelaide Street. Liaising with the head of the fraud department David Higginson and Paul Brown. Overviewing accounts both personal and non-personal to make sure that they complied with anti-money laundering legislation!!!!!!!!!! Working in the Northern Bank in Portadown with the managers William Edmund Gillis and Colin Richard Patterson and the staff including Rosemary Wilson, Stephen Anderson, Olive Guy, Orla Reid, Dean Armstrong and many more besides!!!!!!!!! Working in the Northern Bank in Armagh City with the manager Angela McGeown, the staff including Frances Leeman, Philip

Spence, Ruth Bradford, Jacqueline Burns, Pauline Quilty, and many more besides including Jessica Simpson in the Northern Bank in Portadown!!!!!!!!!!! Working in the Northern Bank in Aughnacloy with the manager Teri Hughes!!!!!!!! The Northern Bank in Keady with Gabriel McElvanna and Patricia Smyth!!!!!!!! Working in the Northern Bank in Tandragee with Donal McKenna and the Northern Bank in Markethill with Andrew Donaldson!!!!!!!!!!!! Travelling all around the world including Canada to visit a family friend Mick Mullan, to Niagara Falls, the United States Of America to visit my uncle Christopher Kelly and his family including Mary and Michael Kelly in Connecticut!!!!!!!!!!! Visiting my sister Bernice Kelly in New York City with my mother Sheila Kelly. Travelling around the UK and Ireland. Saint Jean de Monts in France!!!!!!!!!!!! Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina on an Irish pilgrimage to Medjugorje!!!!!!!! Moscow in Russia to watch Manchester United defeat Chelsea in the Champions League Final in 2008 at the Luzhniki Stadium!!!!!!!!!!!!! The life of Ryan Padraig Kelly!!!!!!!!!!!